

MODERN SCIENCE A STIMULUS TO CHRISTIAN FAITH.

We are well aware of the notion prevailing in the minds of certain thinkers and writers that science and evangelical religion are in conflict. The best authorities, however, are steadfastly declaring that there can be no such conflict actually; and that to the true scientist there is not even apparent discord. They affirm that on the contrary as discovery and arrangement of natural law advances, the relation of natural science and revealed religion is that of uniform harmony and mutual confirmation.

Beyond this, it may be observed, that the legitimate effect of more recent advances in the department of scientific discovery, or the application of known laws to practical uses, is to heighten our conception of the dignity and intense reality of the spiritual kingdom which the gospel reveals to us, and to enlarge and exalt our reverence for the majesty and the ever-presence of him who is its august author and revealer.

We do not refer now especially to that department of investigation, so fruitful in its silent, but eloquent verifications of inspired history, in which every year fresh historic treasures are being rescued from the buried civilizations of the past. If explorations amidst the wrecks of ancient cities in Oriental lands may be called a department of science, it is a department which exhibits the laws and purposes in fulfillment of which, God has preserved for this and succeeding ages, confirmation, which can not be doubted, of the truth of his inspired word written thousands of years ago and commended to our faith as the guide of our life. Discoveries in this department have been so numerous and so important as to be little less than a demonstration of the Divine government as well as being a vindication of Divine Truth.

But the study of purely natural phenomena and their laws, as these have been brought to light in recent years, is suited to deepen conviction, confirm faith and intensify hope; for these phenomena reveal realities in nature little dreamed of by our fathers, and are of a character to magnify our conception of the wisdom and power of the Creator. The wireless telegraph and telephone make very real the refined ethereal substance of which scientist had told us, but of whose nature they had but vague ideas. Now this ether is the substantial medium of communication from city to city and from continent to continent. They tell us that it fills all space, which may suggest to us the possibly boundless realm of activity and communication for the redeemed in a future life. Again we are told that the sun is a mighty power house of electricity and that electrical phenomena on the earth are produced from this source. If this be true what a suggestion of the immensity of force that may perchance be utilized for the advantage of mankind, either in the future of this life or of the life beyond. Rapid transit by land, aerial transit and ocean navigation all display the marvelous provisions that God has made in his providential designs for enlarging the sphere of human activity and therefore the sphere of human happiness if only his gifts are received and utilized in recognition of the wisdom and love with which they are bestowed. Discoveries made through the microscope and telescope alike, are im-

pressing the minds of wise specialists increasingly with the wonders of design in creation and the boundless provision that has been made in the natural world, not only for ministering to human comfort, but for inspiring the receptive mind with reverence and gratitude toward him who ordained it all.

Upon subjects of vital godliness the minds of men assume opposing attitudes. To some the Holy Scriptures are but the records of well-meaning but erring religionists in different ages of the past; to others these scriptures on every page bear the impress of their Divine author, are the revelation of his thought and will. To some Christ is as a root out of a dry ground; to others he is altogether lovely. To some the natural world is the product of blind forces working through uncounted ages; to others it is the handiwork of the only living and sovereign God. With which of these groups will we identify the sacred interests of our immortal souls?

IT MAKES A DIFFERENCE.

It is one thing to urge quiet submission to a Supreme Court's decrees when the latter are in one's favor, but quite another when they are the other way. The Illinois, Kentucky, Georgia, and Texas decisions as to Cumberland Presbyterian property were admirable, and those who were on the losing side were seriously and fraternally urged to yield quietly to them. But not so when the Tennessee decision came. That was a gray horse of another color. Absentee members living in other states must needs be picked up to attempt to bring suit in the federal courts. It has not yet gone quite as far as it went in the Jones vs. Watson, or Walnut Street Church, case, where members were actually colonized in another state and partly supported there, in order to get the case into the federal courts. There has been some difficulty, it seems. Members of a Nashville Church, living in Mississippi, repudiated the use of their names. And Kentucky people interested in Greenfield and Savannah Churches in Tennessee are not able in a federal court to have the state court's decree set aside.

LOUISIANA'S ONE PRESBYTERIAN INSTITUTION.

Silliman Collegiate Institute, at Clinton, La., ably presided over by Rev. H. H. Brownlee, is the one institution of our Church in the great State of Louisiana. For fifty-eight years it has been in successful operation, doing a noble work, which is evidenced by the cultured and refined women who have come from it to adorn our homes and to make our people better. We say people advisedly, for an educated womanhood makes an educated manhood. The Institute is under the directorate of men of Christian and Presbyterian faith. Those in charge of it call for all that is pure and good and refining. It is an institution where all of the Christian virtues are instilled into the hearts and minds of those who come under its influence. Its entire faculty, from the president down, has this constantly in mind. The noble buildings of the Institute attract by their dignity and adaptation, and a delightful and cultured people around affords a community life of the highest type.